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CIVILISATION

Rothschild, by Count Corti, written by a non-Jew in a spirit which on the whole is far from friendly. There is no instance in this of the encouragement or even financing of a war on the part of this most famous of international Banking Houses, but there are several of the reverse. At the height of its power, in the early nineteenth century, it threw the whole of its weight, which was at the time very considerable, on the side of peace: and it seems that the intervention was sometimes decisive. This was so particularly during the crises of 1830 and 1840. In 1831, when the Austrian troops intervened in North Italy, James de Rothschild "did every-thing to allay the indignation which was flaring up in Paris, and to prevent any hasty action being taken." When in 1839 the Belgian Government applied to the House for an advance on the security of Treasury Bilk, with a view to rearmament in preparation for hostilities with Holland, it encountered a point-blank refusal. "Our goodwill necessarily stops short of the point of providing the rod with which we are to be beaten, that is to say, providing the money wanted to make a war, which would destroy the credit that we are applying all our energies and resources to maintain", wrote the head of the Vienna branch. At the time of the Russian crisis in 1854, Von Htibner, the Austrian Ambassador, found James de Rothschild, of Paris, "positively demoralised" by fear of war. In

1866, the House did its best to avert the Austro-Prussian conflict, and three years later its heads were expressing "absolute panic" at the possibility of Franco-Prussian hostilities.

In the period before the war of 1914, the international influence of the House had dwindled, yet it continued to throw its influence on the side of peace. "If ever the archives of this period should be made available to the